

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20062-2000  
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July 9, 2014

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:


The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly urges the Committee to find a bipartisan, short-term solution for the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) shortfall. By the end of July, Congress must send to the President a measure that generates the necessary cash flows to support continued outlays from the HTF and affords much-needed continuity in the short-term for economic development, international trade, and job creation.

It is imperative to turn to identifying and advancing a bipartisan, sustainable, and long-term solution to the HTF that can achieve bicameral success. The Chamber urges leaders of both parties to put politics aside and come together on a shared solution to the HTF's structural deficiencies. The user-supported HTF has been a bipartisan compromise from its beginning: the offspring of a Democratic-controlled House and Senate in the 84th Congress and the Republican Eisenhower Administration. For 58 years the HTF has served America's transportation infrastructure well and helped to create the world's largest economy; however, its long-term solvency has been compromised by a lack of action in both the legislative and executive branches.

The Chamber believes that transportation infrastructure is important to the American economy, and the Chamber applauds the Committee for working to resolve this problem—evident by not only your leadership, but willingness to utilize the Committee process and regular order to address these issues. The Chamber encourages the Committee to focus on creating both short-term and long-term approaches that will garner bipartisan and bicameral support. Time is short and the consequences of inaction are too high. Congress must have--and seize--the opportunity to address a long term revenue fix to the HTF before year end. In the Chamber's view, the longer the patch the easier it will be for Congress to kick the can down the road and avoid the tough question: How will we maintain federal investment in highways, public transportation, and highway safety?

The Chamber recognizes action on a short-term HTF fix is an important step and looks forward to working with you in the months ahead on a long-lasting remedy for the Highway Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." being small and the last name "Josten" being larger and more prominent.

R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Ways and Means